

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-12 have been amended, and claim 13 has been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are pending and under consideration. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e):

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable by Adler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,130, hereinafter referred to as "Adler"). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore are not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Adler

The Adler patent is directed to a data processing system in which a user is able identify a cell in a spreadsheet application, and create new data for that cell, as well as altering the operations that are available to manipulate the data for that cell (Column 3, Line 60 to Column 6, line 25). "Data associated with a cell is called an object and such objects may be in the form of scalar values such as integers, real numbers and strings" (Column 1, Line 45 to Column 1, Line 47). "[T]he user is able to program new types of objects into the interpreter, define the operations that can be performed on these objects, and then immediately utilize these objects in the context of the electronic spreadsheet" (Column 4, Line 58 to Column 4, Line 61). In other words, the user is able to create new data to be operated on, and create new operations that may be applied to the data, with the operation target being a specific cell that the user has chosen.

The Present Claimed Invention Patentably Distinguishes Over Adler

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A two-dimensional data processing apparatus comprising:
operating means for inputting two-dimensional data, and for outputting one piece of two-dimensional data obtained after an entirety of rows or columns of said input two-dimensional data is subjected selectively to one of a plurality of predefined operations;
designating means for designating an operation type which specifies said operation by said operating means, and an input target and an output target of said operation;
recording means for recording at least one set of operation contents in the designated order of said operation contents, with the operation type, input target and output target designated through said designating means being one set of operation contents; and
activating means for sequentially reading out said operation contents recorded by said recording means, and for selectively activating one operation for said operating means based on the operation type, input target and output target of said operation contents.

Thus, the target of the operation chosen by the user is "an entirety of rows or columns of said input two-dimensional data." The rows, or columns, of two-dimensional data are "subjected selectively to one of a plurality of predefined operations," such as the realignment of the cells, and are outputted as two-dimensional data in which the individual cells retain the same data that was contained by the cells before the operation. The number of rows or columns of the output two-dimensional data is determined according to the specified operation. The operation does not compute or change the value in each of the individual cells.

This is in direct contrast to Adler, which does not target an entirety of rows or columns of two-dimensional data, but rather targets the data contained in the cells themselves, and defines the operations that can be performed on that data. Unlike the present invention, the alignment of the two-dimensional data must be determined before the operation takes place.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that "Adler discloses a two-dimensional data processing comprising operating means for inputting two-dimensional data, and for outputting one piece of two-dimensional data obtained after subjected selectively to one of a plurality of predefined operations to a row or a column of input two-dimensional data." Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position. Adler discloses "data processing that can operate and analyze data objects" contained in the cells (Column 3, Lines 62-63), not to rows or columns of input two-dimensional data. In contrast, the present invention performs predefined operations on the rows or columns themselves, and the data contained in an individual cell is not altered.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Adler.

Claim 5 also comprises "inputting two-dimensional data, and outputting one piece of two-dimensional data obtained after an entirety of rows or columns of said input two-dimensional data is subjected selectively to one of a plurality of predefined operations." Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is patentable over Adler.

Claim 9 also comprises "inputting two-dimensional data, and outputting one piece of two-dimensional data obtained after an entirety of rows or columns of said input two-dimensional data is subjected selectively to one of a plurality of predefined operations." Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is patentable over Adler.

Claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-12 depend from claims 1, 5, and 9, respectively, and include all of the features of those claims plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by Adler. For example, claim 2 recites that the recording means records the operation contents as two-dimensional data. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-12 are also patentable over Adler.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 13 is directed to a two-dimensional data processing apparatus comprising:

"inputting two-dimensional data, and outputting one piece of two-dimensional data obtained after an entirety of rows or columns of the input two-dimensional data is subjected to one of a plurality of predefined operations."

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 13 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. Reconsideration of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution

can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 11, 2003
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